

STATE OF MAINE

LAWS FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Effective January 1, 2004
Reference to Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 29-A
Prepared By The Maine Department Of Transportation

1. TELEPHONE CONTACTS FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGULATIONS

Bureau of Motor Vehicles (624-9000 + Extension)

Internet Web Site Address:

www.state.me.us/sos/bmv/commercial/homepage.shtml

Administrative Services.....52155

Drivers License Services

Accidents.....52110

Administrative Hearings.....52113

Court Records.....52100

Driving Records.....52116

Financial Responsibility.....52108

License Examinations (Auto).....52119

License Examinations (Commercial).....52122

Medical Review.....52124

OUI.....52104

Renewals/Changes/State IDs.....52114

Vehicle Services

Container Permits.....52127

Dealer Licensing.....52143

For Hire Insurance.....52133

Fuel Tax Reporting (IFTA).....52136

Fuel Tax Decals.....52137

Heavy Vehicle Use Tax.....52151

Operating Authority.....52127

Overlimit Permits.....52134

Registrations (Auto).....52149

(IRP Commercial).....52135

(Non IRP Commercial).....52151

(Trailer).....52152

Special Mobile Equipment.....52151

Titles.....52138

USDOT Numbers.....52133 or 622-8358

Other Contacts:

Double Trailer Access (Transportation).....624-3620

Drug Test Requirements (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Admin.) 622-8358

Explosives Transport-Interstate (FMCSA).....622-8358

Explosives Transport-In Maine (Fire Marshall).....624-8744

53 Foot Semitrailer Access Routes (Transportation).....624-3620

48 Foot Semitrailer Access Routes (Transportation).....624-3620

Fuel Tax Audits (Revenue Services).....624-9608

Hazardous Materials (State Police).....624-8939

Maine Turnpike.....800-698-7747

Occupational Safety (U.S. Department of Labor).....941-8177

Petroleum & Waste Oil Transport (Environmental Protection) ..287-2651

Posted Road Exemptions (Nearest MDOT Division Office)

Propane Delivery Tech. License (Prof. & Fin. Regulation)624-8603

Safety Inspections/Regulations (State Police).....624-8939

Sales Tax (Revenue Services).....287-2336

Seafood Transport (Marine Resources).....624-6550
Solid Waste Transport (Environmental Protection).....287-2651

2. MAIL ADDRESSES FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGULATIONS

Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Services,
29 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0029
Fax: (207) 624-9086 (IRP/IFTA)
622-5332 (Overlimits/Oper. Auth.)

Note: Most BMV forms and rules are available on the Web Site.

(Located at 101 Hospital Street, Route 9, Augusta
Hours: 7:30 AM -5 PM)

Maine Bureau of the State Police, Traffic Division
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Detail
20 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0020
Fax: (207) 624-8945

State Fire Marshal
164 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0164

Maine Department of Transportation
Bureau of Maintenance & Operations
Traffic Engineering Division
16 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0016
Fax: (207) 623-2526
www.state.me.us/mdot/traffic

Maine Turnpike Authority
430 Riverside Street, Portland, ME 04103
Fax: (207) 871-7739

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Hazardous Material & Solid Waste Control
17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017
Fax: (207) 287-7826

Maine Department of Professional & Financial Regulation
Office of Licensing & Registration
35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035
Fax: (207) 624-8637

Maine Bureau of Revenue Services
24 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0024
Fax: (207) 287-4028

Maine Department of Marine Resources
21 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0021
Fax: (207) 624-6024

Federal Highway Administration
40 Western Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330
Fax: (207) 626-9133

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
40 Western Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330
Fax: (207) 622-8477

Occupational Safety & Health Administration
U. S. Department of Labor
40 Western Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330

3. COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGULATIONS

A. Registration.

Trucks, including eligible pickup trucks, must be registered as commercial vehicles for the actual gross weight of the truck and load, including the weight of any trailer or semitrailer and the load being drawn. A pickup truck registered as a passenger vehicle may not exceed 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight unless it is towing: 1) a camper trailer; or, 2) a utility trailer weighing less than 2,000 pounds gross weight where the combined gross vehicle weight of the pickup and the utility trailer does not exceed 8,000 pounds. Otherwise, pickup trucks towing trailers where the combined gross vehicle weight exceeds 6,000 pounds must register as a commercial vehicle.

IRP Vehicles Maine is a member of the International Registration Plan (IRP). Maine-registered motor vehicles that travel to another IRP jurisdiction, and which have a gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds or three or more axles on the power unit, must be registered in the IRP. Qualified motor vehicles from another IRP jurisdiction must have Maine on the cab card or have a valid Maine IRP trip permit. Non apportioned vehicles operating intrastate must register in Maine or obtain trip permits.

Non-IRP Vehicles Except for certain motor vehicles registered in IRP, motor vehicles based in Maine must be registered in Maine. Motor vehicles are registered on the basis of combined gross weight the total weight of the vehicle and maximum load to be carried. For truck tractor semitrailer combinations, the power unit is registered for the combined gross weight and the semitrailer is registered for a nominal fee. A motor vehicle may not be operated in excess of the maximum weight allowed for its configuration, (see Table 1), without additional permits.

Taxes, Titles & Insurance Payment of the annual municipal excise tax is required prior to obtaining a Maine registration. Vehicles subject to the Title Law must be titled, or have a pending title application. Sales tax payment or proof of exemption from sales tax is also required for first time registration. Evidence of insurance is also required.

Boosters Once a commercial motor vehicle is registered in Maine, the gross weight may be increased for a period of one to eight months by paying an additional fee. Temporary increases in registered weight (boosters) convey all the privileges and responsibilities of registration. For motor vehicles registered in the IRP, boosters are valid only in Maine.

B. Heavy Vehicle Use Tax.

Owners of vehicles registered or boosted to 55,000 pounds or more are required annually to file proof that the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT) has been paid. For vehicles base registered in Maine under the IRP, proof must be submitted at registration; other vehicles operating only within Maine must file proof within 4 months of vehicle registration. Otherwise, the vehicle's registration will be suspended. Proof of payment must be either a receipted copy of the IRS Form 2290, Schedule 1, or a copy of both sides of the canceled check. Proof of HVUT payment must be provided to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Commercial Registration Unit, 29 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0016. For assistance with HVUT payments, contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles at 624-5000, extension 52151 or your nearest IRS office.

C. Fuel Use Licensing And Reporting.

Qualified Vehicles. Vehicle operators using fuel other than gasoline must establish an account for fuel tax licensing and reporting if:

- 1) The motor vehicle has a registered gross weight or actual weight of more than 26,000 pounds; or
- (2) The motor vehicle has three or more axles on the power unit regardless of weight; or
- (3) The motor vehicle is a bus with a seating capacity of 20 or more including the driver.

Each qualified motor vehicle must display either a Maine fuel use identification decal or an IFTA decal.

IFTA. Maine is a member of the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). Anyone operating qualified motor vehicles in two or more IFTA jurisdictions must license and report mileage and fuel consumption in all IFTA jurisdictions through their IFTA base (home) jurisdiction. A Maine-based carrier operating out-of-state must license for IFTA with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Fuel Use Licensing Unit unless the carrier can satisfy the basing requirements in another jurisdiction. In IFTA, the carrier is issued one set of decals good for travel in all IFTA jurisdictions, and makes one quarterly fuel tax report to the base jurisdiction. Many IFTA jurisdictions require qualified gasoline-powered vehicles to license and report. Maine-based carriers with qualified gasoline-powered vehicles will license and report through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Fuel Use Licensing Unit.

Intrastate Carriers. Maine carriers operating qualified motor vehicles entirely within the State of Maine also must license for fuel tax reporting and display fuel decals. In many cases, carriers may be exempted from filing fuel tax reports. However, carriers still must keep mileage records and must provide their fleet mileage on their annual decal application.

Temporary License. Maine will issue a temporary (30-day) fuel license in lieu of a decal to operate a specific qualified vehicle. An application for a temporary license creates an annual account and requires the filing of fuel tax reports. Within 30 days the applicant will be issued an annual decal.

Trip Permits. In lieu of licensing and reporting, a carrier may obtain a 72-hour trip permit for a fee of fifty dollars.

D. Over Limit Permits.

Over limit permits are not available in Maine for divisible loads. Anyone transporting non-divisible loads or objects in excess of legal dimension and weight limits must obtain an over limit permit from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Services office. After initial contact with BMV, these permits may be obtained by Fax or by going to the nearest Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch office. Permits are valid for a stated route and for a limited period of time. Other conditions may apply. Further information on these permits can be found in the publication "Regulations & Instructions Governing Overweight & Overdimension Vehicle Permits" which is available from the Motor Carrier Services office.

Maine, along with the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, is a member of the New England Transportation Consortium Over limit Permits Program. Under this program, one state may issue an over limit permit for an interstate move in two or more states. To qualify, the vehicle and load may not exceed:

- (1) 90 feet in length;
- (2) 13 feet 6 inches in height;
- (3) 14 feet in width (with an additional 6 inch overhang allowed for modular or mobile homes);
- (4) 108,000 pounds for 5 axle and 120,000 pounds for 6 or more axle truck tractor-semitrailer combination vehicles.

Vehicles exceeding these limits must obtain separate permits in each applicable state.

Overlimit multi-state permits are also available for travel in certain northeastern U. S. States. Contact the Overlimit Permits office for information.

Vehicles transporting over limit loads are subject to certain safety, routing, time of day, and holiday restrictions, as well as escort requirements. Over limit permit rules are available from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Services office upon request.

The Maine Turnpike has its own specified size and weight limitations. For information, contact (800) 698-7747. Movement of oversized loads on the Maine Turnpike requires payment of a ten dollar (\$10) permit fee in addition to the applicable toll.

Permits issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles apply only to those highways or bridges under the jurisdiction of the Maine Department of Transportation. Permission for the use of other highways under the jurisdiction of towns and municipalities must be obtained, if required, directly from those local authorities.

E. Operating Authority/Single State Registration System.

Motor carriers carrying another company's property must obtain "for hire" operating authority, either through the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Operating Authority Unit, or through the operating authority unit of the carrier's home state.

Maine is a member of the Single State Registration System for base state operating authority. ICC-regulated carriers based in a participating state satisfy all pertinent states' operating authority requirements through their base state. ICC-regulated carriers not based in a participating state must contact the participating state in which they operate the greatest number of motor vehicles.

ICC-exempt carriers must contact each state individually to obtain the appropriate authority. Intrastate "for hire" carriers must contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Operating Authority Unit.

"For hire" carriers must provide continuous proof of insurance, have no outstanding court violations, and have an agent for service of process. The minimum insurance requirement is \$350,000 CSL. ICC regulated carriers satisfy these requirements through their base state. Maine's operating authority fee is eight dollars (\$8.00) per vehicle per year.

Owners of taxis, limousines, and consumer rental vehicles must maintain continuous proof of insurance based on the maximum number of passengers to be carried.

Further information on any of these requirements is available from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Services office.

F. Hazardous & Nonhazardous Waste & Materials Carriers.

Petroleum, waste oil, and solid waste carriers must contact the Department of Environmental Protection for information about the required licenses. Propane haulers should contact the Maine Department of Professional & Financial Regulation, while those transporting explosives should contact the State Fire Marshal or the Federal Highway Administration. Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations may also apply to motor vehicles of any size which transport certain hazardous materials, wastes, or substances, including bulk cryogenic liquids. Contact the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Motor Carriers for further information. The Maine State Police may be contacted for information about placarding and hazardous materials regulations.

G. Double 28 ½ Foot Trailer Access

The Maine Department of Transportation's Traffic Engineering Division maintains a list of approved roads for the travel of vehicles hauling twin 28 ½ foot trailers. This office also is responsible for the approval of roads beyond this highway network, and may conduct engineering reviews at its discretion. A list of approved roads may be obtained by contacting that unit at 624-3620 or the Maine Bureau of Motor vehicles Web address for further information. A map of the approved system may be obtained on the Web from Traffic Engineering website. (See Page 2 for both websites.)

H. 53 Foot Semitrailer Vehicles.

Combination vehicles not exceeding 74 feet* in overall length with semitrailers between 48 and 53 feet long may be operated on highways approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, provided that they meet certain dimensional and safety requirements. Contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Services office for more information about these requirements.

* Overall vehicle length is not restricted for travel on those highways designated below under items 1) through 4).

The designated highway system for these vehicles is:

- 1) The Maine Interstate Highway System (including the Maine Turnpike);
- 2) Scarborough Connector, I-295 S. Portland to U. S. Route 1, S. Portland;
- 3) South Portland Spur, (SH703) I-95 S. Portland to U. S. Route 1, S. Portland;
- 4) U. S. Route 1 from I-95 Brunswick to Congress Street interchange in Bath;
- 5) Other highways designated by the Commissioner of transportation as access highways to those highways listed in items 1) through 4) above. **Contact the Maine Dept. Of Transportation, Traffic Engineering Division, at (207) 624-3620 or the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles Internet Web Site (See Page 1) for a current list of these access highways;**
- 6) On intersecting crossroads within one mile of the highways noted in items 1) through 5) above for the purpose of traveling to terminals or to obtain food, fuel, repairs and rest.

Operators of these vehicles who plan to travel beyond the designated highway system listed above, other than the one mile access listed in item 6), must first obtain an off-system route approval from the Maine Department of Transportation, Traffic Services Division. This route approval, which specifically authorizes travel beyond the designated system, must be carried in the vehicle at all times.

PLEASE NOTE: COMBINATION VEHICLES THAT INCLUDE TRAILERS OR SEMITRAILERS MORE THAN 48 FEET LONG MAY NOT EXCEED 80,000 POUNDS GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT WHEN TRAVELING ON ANY MAINE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY, INCLUDING THE MAINE TURNPIKE AND INTERSTATE 95 IN KITTERY, MAINE.

I. Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections.

Most commercial vehicles, (including trucks, buses, trailers, semitrailers and converter dollies), which use public highways in interstate or intrastate commerce to transport passengers or property are required to have an annual commercial vehicle safety inspection when:

- (1) The gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or combination vehicle exceeds 10,000 pounds; or

(2) The vehicle is designed to transport more than 15 passengers including the driver; or

(3) The vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials which require placarding.

Commercial vehicles displaying a current certificate of inspection from any state or federally approved commercial vehicle inspection program are exempt from inspection until the normal expiration of the certificate. Storage trailers operating under the provisions of MRSA Title 29-A, Section 462, Subsection 8 are also exempt from annual inspections. For information on vehicles exempted from annual inspections, contact the Maine State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit at (207) 624-8939.

J. Federal Motor Carrier Safety & Insurance Regulations.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to the operation of commercial motor vehicles which transport property or passengers in interstate commerce. The regulations also apply to commercial vehicles operating entirely within Maine. The FMCSR definition of a "commercial motor vehicle" is as described in the preceding paragraph on Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections. There are certain exemptions for carriers operating within a 100 air mile radius of their home base. See "Motor Carrier Safety Rules" chart for safety regulations applicable to property carriers.

Federal Minimum Financial Responsibility (Insurance) Requirements apply to interstate "for hire" motor carrier operations and to the interstate transportation of any quantity of a hazardous material. These requirements also apply to the transportation of hazardous materials in a portable or cargo tank with a capacity exceeding 3,500 gallons, whether transported entirely within Maine or interstate. See "Motor Carriers of Property Insurance Reference Chart" for insurance requirements or contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration at (207) 622-8358 for further information.

K. Federal Drug Testing Requirements.

Federal regulations require that all motor carriers operating commercial vehicles be subject to testing for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, and phencyclidine (PCP). "Commercial motor vehicles" for the purposes of drug testing include: a single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating or registered weight exceeding 26,000 pounds; a combination of vehicles with a combined gross vehicle weight rating or registered weight exceeding 26,000 pounds if the vehicle being towed exceeds 10,000 pounds gross weight; passenger vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers (including the driver); and vehicles transporting hazardous materials which require placarding. If a driver is subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (see paragraph J) and the vehicle meets the definition of a commercial vehicle described in paragraph K, then the driver must be tested.

For information concerning drug testing procedures and programs, see the chart on "Motor Carrier Safety Rules" chart or contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration at (207) 622-8358.

L. USDOT Identification Numbers.

All motor carriers seeking to operate commercial motor vehicles across state borders into other jurisdictions must, unless exempted, obtain a U. S. Department of Transportation number. These numbers must be displayed on the motor vehicle prior to beginning operation. Operators of intrastate trucks (trucks operating only within the State of Maine) must also have a USDOT number if the truck has a gross weight of more than 26,000 pounds or has three or more axles on the power unit. Display of the USDOT number is not required for intrastate trucks. USDOT number applications are available from any Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch office or by calling 624-9000, extension 52133.

M. Headlight Illumination

Maine Public Law 1997, Chapter 249 requires that the headlights of all motor vehicles operating on a public way must be illuminated whenever the vehicle's windshield wipers are in constant use. This requirement is in addition to that requiring headlight illumination if operating at night or whenever, due to weather conditions, vehicles or persons cannot be seen for a distance of 1,000 feet ahead.

4. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS

A. Maine General Law

Maine's General Law gross weight limit applies to the following highways:

- 1) Interstate 95 from the New Hampshire State Line to the southern terminus of the Maine Turnpike;
- 2) The Maine Turnpike (designated Interstate 95 and 495);
- 3) All non-Interstate highways.

Maine's General Law provides that the total weight of a vehicle or a combination of vehicles, plus their load, is limited by the number of axles to:

TABLE 1 - GENERAL LAW GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS

2 Axles	34,000 pounds
3 Axles	54,000 pounds
4 Axles	69,000 pounds*
5 Axles	80,000 pounds
6 Axles	100,000 pounds**

* Also applies to all single unit vehicles over 4 axles.

** Applies only to a combination vehicle consisting of a 3 axle truck tractor towing a triaxle semitrailer unit that is operating on the General Law highways listed above. The 80,000 pound limit applies to all other combination vehicles over 4 axles, except for certain vehicles carrying special commodities which are allowed additional weight tolerances. See Section 9.D.. (Note: 53 foot semitrailer vehicles are restricted to 80,000 pounds GVW on the Maine Turnpike.)

Table 2 on the next page shows the gross weight limit reduction for 4 or more axle combination vehicles having short wheel bases. The "Distance In Feet" noted is that between the centers of the

extreme axles of the vehicle, excluding the steering axle, measured to the nearest foot.

**TABLE 2 - COMBINATION TRUCK GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT
LIMITS FOR SHORTER WHEEL BASE VEHICLES**

SPECIAL 6 AXLE COMBINATION			ALL OTHER COMBINATION TRUCKS		
DISTANCE	GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT		DISTANCE	GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT	
IN FEET	SC	OTHER	IN FEET	4 AXLE	5+ AXLES
27	90,000	82,000	8	59,000	Reduced 2,000 Pounds From 80,000 For Each Foot Less Than 24 Feet
28	92,000	84,000	9	60,000	
29	94,000	86,000	10	61,000	
30	96,000	88,000	11	62,000	
31	98,000	90,000	12	63,000	
32	100,000	92,000	13	64,000	
33		94,000	14	65,000	
34		96,000	15	66,000	
35		98,000	16	67,000	
36		100,000	17	68,000	
			18	69,000	Over 18 Feet Limited To 69,000
			19		
			20		
			21		
			22		
			23		
			24		
			25		

Notes On Table 2

- 1) "Special 6 Axle Combination" may be only a 3 axle truck tractor (not truck) hauling a semitrailer with a rear triaxle.
- 2) Four and five axle combinations hauling certain special commodities are also eligible for a 10 percent GVW tolerance up to 75,900 pounds for a four axle combination and 88,000 pounds for a five axle combination if traveling on the Maine Turnpike or off the Interstate Highway System. (See Section 9.D.)
- 3) "SC" means a Special 6 Axle Combination truck registered for at least 90,000 pounds that is hauling certain special commodities. (See Section 9.D.)
- 4) "OTHER" means all other Special 6 Axle Combination trucks.

B. Interstate Highway System.

For operation on the Interstate Highway System, excluding those segments of the Interstate Highway System listed in Section 4.A., the

weight of the vehicle or combinations of vehicles, plus their load, is limited by Bridge Formula B, modified. In addition, the Bridge Formula also limits the total weight of any group of consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles according to the distance between the centers of the extreme axles in the group. The greatest load allowed is 80,000 pounds. TABLE 3 lists the maximum Bridge Formula B weight limits for groups of axles containing from two to seven axles arranged by the distance between extreme axles in the group.

Bridge Formula B, modified is:
$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

where W = weight on the axle group;
L = distance in feet between centers of extreme axles
for any group of consecutive axles; and
N = number of axles

The following are exceptions to the use of the Bridge Formula on the Interstate System:

(1) Single axles are limited to 20,000 pounds for vehicles over 73,280 pounds GVW, and 22,000 pounds for vehicles 73,280 pounds GVW or less.

(2) Tandem axles are limited to 34,000 pounds.

(3) Two consecutive tandem axles may carry 34,000 pounds each if there are at least 36 feet between centers of extreme axles.

(4) All 3 axle trucks with brakes on the wheels of all axles may be operated with a gross weight of 48,000 pounds if the distance between extreme axles is at least:

- a) 16 feet when hauling construction materials.
- b) 18 feet when hauling forest products, or hauling raw ore from mine or quarry to place of processing.

TABLE 3 - INTERSTATE AXLE GROUP "BRIDGE FORMULA" WEIGHT LIMITS

Distance (FT) Between Centers of Extreme Axles In Axle Group	Gross Weight Limit On Any Group Of Consecutive Axles						
	<u>2 Axles</u>	<u>3 Axles</u>	<u>4 Axles</u>	<u>5 Axles</u>	<u>6 Axles</u>	<u>7 Axles</u>	
4.....	34,000						
5.....	34,000						
6.....	34,000						
7.....	34,000						
8.....	34,000	34,000					
More than 8.....	38,000	42,000					
9.....	39,000	43,000					
10.....	40,000	43,500					
11.....	41,000*	44,500					
12.....	42,000*	45,000	50,000				
13.....	43,000*	46,000	50,500				
14.....	44,000*	46,500	51,500				
15.....		47,500	52,000				
16.....		48,000	52,500	58,000			
17.....		49,000	53,500	58,500			
18.....		49,500	54,000	59,500			
19.....		50,500	54,500	60,000			
20.....		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000		
21.....		52,000	56,000	61,000	66,500		
22.....		52,500	56,500	62,000	67,000		
23.....		53,500	57,500	62,500	68,000		
24.....		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000	
25.....		55,000	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500	
26.....		55,500	59,500	64,500	69,500	75,000	
27.....		56,500	60,000	65,000	70,000	76,000	
28.....		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500	
29.....		58,000	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000	
30.....		58,500	62,000	67,000	72,000	77,500	
31.....		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000	
32.....		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500	
33.....			64,000	68,500	74,000	79,500	
34.....			64,500	69,500	74,500	80,000	
35.....			65,500	70,000	75,000		
36.....			66,000**	70,500	75,500		
37.....			66,500**	71,000	76,000		
38.....			67,500**	72,000	77,000		
39.....			68,000	72,500	77,500		
40.....			68,500	73,000	78,000		
41.....			69,500	73,500	78,500		
42.....			70,000	74,500	79,000		
43.....			71,000	75,000	80,000		
44.....			71,500	75,500			
45.....			72,000	76,000			
46.....				77,000			
47.....			Greater	77,500			
48.....			Loads	78,000			
49.....			Not	78,500			
50.....			Practical	79,500			
51.....				80,000			

* 40,000 lbs. if GVW is 73,280 lbs. or more. ** If two tandems, 68,000 lbs..

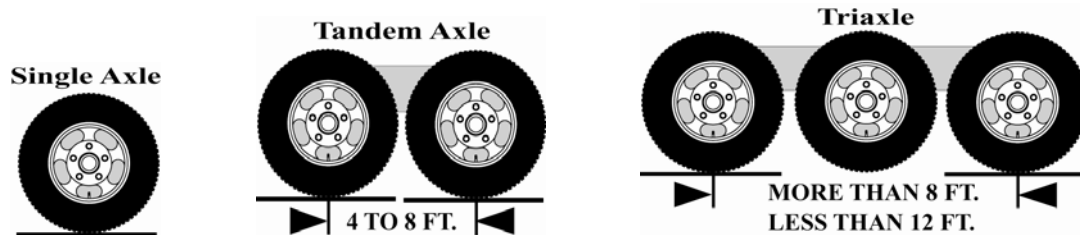
5. AXLE WEIGHT LIMITS

A. Groups of closely spaced axles shall be treated as follows:

- (1) Axles whose centers are less than 4 feet apart shall be considered a single axle unit.
- (2) A single axle whose center is closer than 10 feet, or if it is a steering axle 9 feet, to a triaxle unit shall be considered part of that triaxle and not add to the allowable load capacity of that triaxle unit.

B. The axle weights and distance limits for axle units are illustrated below:

TABLE 4 - AXLE UNIT WEIGHT LIMITS



SINGLE AXLE		
INTERSTATE	22,000	Up to 73,280 lb. GVW.
	20,000	Over 73,280 lb. GVW.
NON-INTERSTATE*		
General Freight	22,400	
Special Commodity	24,200	
TANDEM		
INTERSTATE	34,000	
NON-INTERSTATE*		
General Freight	38,000	
	41,000	6 axle combinations only.
Special Commodity	44,000	5 or more axle trucks.
	46,000	All other trucks.
TRIAXLE		
INTERSTATE	TABLE 3	
NON-INTERSTATE*		
General Freight	48,000	
	50,000	6 axle combinations only.
Special Commodity	54,000	
Forest Products	64,000	4 axle single unit only.

* Applies to all roads listed in Section 4 A.

C. Loads shall be distributed as follows:

- 1) No single axle of a tandem unit shall support more than 60% of the total weight supported by the tandem unit. It shall not be considered a violation if neither axle of a tandem unit exceeds the weight legally allowed on a single axle unit for the same vehicle.

(2) No single axle of a triaxle unit shall support more than 40% of the total weight supported by the triaxle unit.

(3) The allowable gross weight of a vehicle shall not be increased by the addition of a trailing axle, so called, unless the trailing axle supports at least 50% of the added weight permitted by the addition of that trailing axle.

D. Weight Limited By Tire Size

Regardless of any other applicable weight limits, all loads shall be limited to 600 pounds per inch of tire width, manufacturer's rating, excepting farm trucks transporting potatoes directly from the field to the place of storage or to a processing facility during the potato harvesting season.

6. RESPONSIBILITY

It is prima facie evidence that the person, firm, or corporation holding the operating authority or issued the vehicle registration is responsible for the operation of the vehicle.

7. BRAKES

Every truck, truck tractor, trailer and semitrailer shall be equipped with adequate brakes acting on all wheels of all axles, except vehicles meeting any of the following conditions:

A. Any truck or truck tractor having 3 or more axles manufactured before August 1, 1980 need not have brakes on the wheels of the steering axle. Vehicles with two steering axles must have brakes on one steering axle.

B. Any trailer or semitrailer that has a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less.

C. Any vehicle towed by a wrecker.

D. Any vehicle that meets the braking requirements of the motor carrier safety regulations promulgated or accepted by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

E. Semitrailers designed and used exclusively for the dispensing of cable from reels and semitrailers designed and used exclusively to support the ends of poles while being transported when the gross weight of semitrailer and supported load does not exceed 12,000 pounds.

F. Any dolly axle on a farm truck that is transporting agricultural products or supplies, providing that such an axle does not increase the allowable gross weight of the vehicle.

8. PROJECTING OBJECTS & TRAILERS

Vehicles carrying objects that project more than 4 feet from the rear of the vehicle must, during the period of 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, carry a red light at or near the rear end of the projecting objects. At all other times, the vehicle must

carry a clean red cloth of the dimensions 12 X 12 inches attached at or near the end of the projecting object.

During the hours when lights are required, a vehicle carrying logs that project more than 4 feet from the rear of the vehicle is required to display a red reflector or to paint reflectorized paint on the end of the log projecting furthest to the rear. The reflector or reflectorized paint must be properly maintained, and must be located and be of a size which is sufficient to reflect at night on an unlighted highway the undimmed headlights of a vehicle approaching the rear of the vehicle from a distance of at least 200 feet.

A load must be covered or otherwise secured or confined to prevent any portion of the load from falling from or spilling out of the vehicle.

Trailers, semitrailers, or vehicles being towed must, in addition to the tow bar or coupling device, have a safety chain or steel cable made of not less than ¼ inch wire so attached as to prevent breakaway from the towing vehicle. (This requirement does not apply to truck tractor and semitrailer units equipped with a fifth wheel mechanism.)

Trailers that are wider than the towing vehicle must be equipped with reflective material or a lamp on each front corner that is visible to oncoming traffic.

9. OPERATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHTS

A. Applicable Highways

The operational vehicle weights described in this section are applicable* on the following highways:

- 1) Interstate 95 from the New Hampshire State Line to the southern terminus of the Maine Turnpike;
- 2) The Maine Turnpike (designated Interstate 95 and 495); and,
- 3) All non-Interstate highways.

*** PLEASE NOTE: COMBINATION VEHICLES THAT INCLUDE TRAILERS OR SEMITRAILERS MORE THAN 48 FEET LONG MAY NOT EXCEED 80,000 POUNDS GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT WHEN TRAVELING ON THE MAINE TURNPIKE OR ON INTERSTATE 95 IN KITTERY, MAINE.**

B. General Tolerance.

Provided that gross, axle and tire limits are not exceeded, vehicles may operate at a gross weight exceeding the current registration by the greater of 2 1/2 percent or 500 pounds.

C. Maximum Operational Gross Vehicle Weight

Note: See Section D for exceptions to the following rules.

A three axle truck tractor (not truck) and triaxle semitrailer combination vehicle may operate at a maximum of 100,000 pounds GVW if:

- (1) The vehicle is registered or apportioned for 100,000 pounds;
- (2) The distance* between extreme axles, excluding the steering axle, is at least 36 feet to the nearest foot;

** The 100,000 pound maximum GVW shall be reduced 2,000 pounds for each foot this distance is less than 36 feet, to the nearest foot.*

(3) The minimum distance between steering axle and the first axle of the tandem is at least 10 feet to the nearest foot;

(4) The maximum weight shall not exceed 41,000 pounds on the tandem axle and 50,000 pounds on the triaxle;

(5) For all vehicles manufactured, modified, or retrofitted with liftable or variable load suspension axles after October 30, 1991, such axles are permitted only under the following conditions:

a) Only one liftable or variable load axle may be present on the truck tractor unit, and such axle must be legally part of the tandem axle group.

b) Only one liftable or variable load axle may be present on the semitrailer unit, and such axle must be legally part of the triaxle group.

c) The axle weight rating of the lift axle must conform to the expected loading of the suspension and be at least 20,000 pounds or more.

D. Special Weight Tolerances for Certain Commodities.

(1) While actively engaged in the exclusive transport of the commodities listed in subsection (4), vehicles will be allowed special weight tolerances.

(2) The special weight tolerances are:

a) 10% over the maximum gross weights (up to 80,000 pounds) listed in TABLE 1;

b) 85,000 pounds GVW for certain six axle single unit trucks carrying only forest products See Item (5);

c) 94,000 pounds GVW for certain four axle single unit truck trailer combination vehicles See Item (6);

d) 100,000 pounds GVW for combination vehicles consisting of a three axle truck tractor (not truck) with triaxle semitrailer that is registered or apportioned for at least 90,000 pounds GVW;

e) Axle weight limits: See TABLE 4, "Spec. Products".

(3) Restrictions include:

a) Wheel base reductions for 4 or more axle combinations;

b) 600 pounds per inch width of tire, manufacturer's rating;

c) Unless otherwise indicated in this section, the vehicle must be registered or apportioned for the maximum legal weight allowed for that vehicle configuration under Maine law;

d) For operation at 100,000 pounds gross weight, the distance between the extreme axles of the vehicle, excluding the steering axle, must be at least 32 feet to the nearest foot. (See Table 2 for GVW reductions if this distance is less than 32 feet.)

(4) The vehicle must be loaded entirely with the following commodities:

a) Materials or unset concrete intended for highway construction and carried in dump or transit mix trucks;

b) Manufacturer's concrete products;

- c) Raw ore from mine or quarry to place of processing;
- d) Unprocessed milk;
- e) Refrigerated products when they constitute the majority of products carried in a sealed vehicle;
- f) Building materials that absorb moisture during delivery originating and terminating within the State;
- g) Incinerator ash;
- h) Unconsolidated rock materials, including limestone, and: bark; pulpwood; firewood; logs; sawed lumber; bolts; soils; dimension lumber; road salt; solid waste; farm produce; sawdust; and wood chips.

- (5) A four axle single unit truck, two axle trailer combination vehicle carrying the commodities listed in (4) above may operate at a maximum gross vehicle weight of 94,000 pounds under either of the following conditions:
- a) the trailer unit is registered for at least 28,000 pounds gross weight and the combined registered weight for the truck and trailer is at least 94,000 pounds gross weight or
 - b) the truck is registered for at least 94,000 pounds.

Other restrictions apply. Contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Services office for further information.

E. Posted Road Exemptions.

The following vehicles are exempt from posted highways regulations:

- (1) Any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross vehicle weight of 23,000 pounds or less;
- (2) Any unloaded vehicle (excluding special mobile equipment) carrying only tools and equipment necessary for the vehicle's proper operation regardless of registered weight;
- (3) MDOT highway maintenance vehicles or vehicles under the direction of a public jurisdiction engaged in emergency highway maintenance with the permission of MDOT;
- (4) Passenger cars, pickup trucks, emergency vehicles, school buses, and vehicles with fewer than 4 axles under the direction of a public utility and engaged in plant maintenance or repair;
- (5) Vehicles carrying any home heating fuel to a private consumer, gasoline, groceries, bulk milk, bulk feed, solid waste, rubbish, or medical gases provided that an exemption certificate is obtained from MDOT. The vehicle must be registered in excess of 23,000 pounds and carry a partial load with a gross weight not to exceed the weight indicated on the exemption certificate. Applicants for certificates must present certified weigh slips for the empty weight of the vehicle;
- (6) Any combination vehicle of five or more axles with a GVW of 80,000 pounds or less hauling perishable products, and having in the vehicle a permit issued by MDOT.

For further information, contact the nearest MDOT Division Office.

10. OCEANGOING CONTAINERS

Under certain conditions, overweight permits are available for vehicles transporting sealed oceangoing containers either to or from locations outside the United States. Application must be made through the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles. For more information, contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles at 624-9000, extension 52127.

MOTOR CARRIERS OF PROPERTY INSURANCE REFERENCE CHART

NOTE: The type of carriage listed applies to vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more unless otherwise specified.

Operation Type	Commodity	Minimum Insurance Coverage Required
Non-ICC for hire, all weights (Maine law)	General, not included in references below:	\$350,000
For-hire interstate, or foreign Commerce	Non-hazardous - general	\$750,000
For-hire and private commerce; Interstate, Foreign, or Intrastate	Hazardous substances as defined in 49 CFR 171.8 transported in cargo tanks, portable tanks, or hopper-type vehicles with capacities in excess of 3,500 water gallons; or in bulk Division 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 materials, Division 2.3, Hazard Zone A, or Division 6.1, Packing Group 1, Hazard Zone A material; in bulk Division 2.1 or 2.2; or highway route controlled quantities of a Class 7 material, as defined in 49 CFR 173.403.	\$5,000,000
For-hire and private in commerce Interstate Foreign – any quantity Intrastate – bulk only	Oil listed in 49 CFR 172.101, hazardous waste, hazardous materials and hazardous substances defined in 49 CFR 171.8 and listed in 49 CFR 172.101, but not mentioned above or below.	\$1,000,000
For hire and private in commerce Interstate, Foreign, or Vehicles of GVWR less than 10,000 lbs.	Any quantity of Division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 material; any quantity of a Division 2.3, Hazard Zone A, or Division 6.1, Packing Group 1, Hazard Zone A material; or highway route controlled quantities of a class 7 material as defined in 49 CFR 173.403	\$5,000,000
For hire in commerce Interstate or Foreign	Property (nonhazardous)-vehicles of GVWR less than 10,000 lbs.	\$300,000
Short term light truck rentals	Subject to for hire and hazmat insurance if applicable	\$125,000 CSL OR \$50,000/\$100,000/\$25,000
Short term truck rentals over 26,000 registered GVWR	Subject to for-hire and hazmat insurance if applicable	\$350,000

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY RULES
PROPERTY CARRIERS – BY DISTANCE AND GROSS WEIGHT

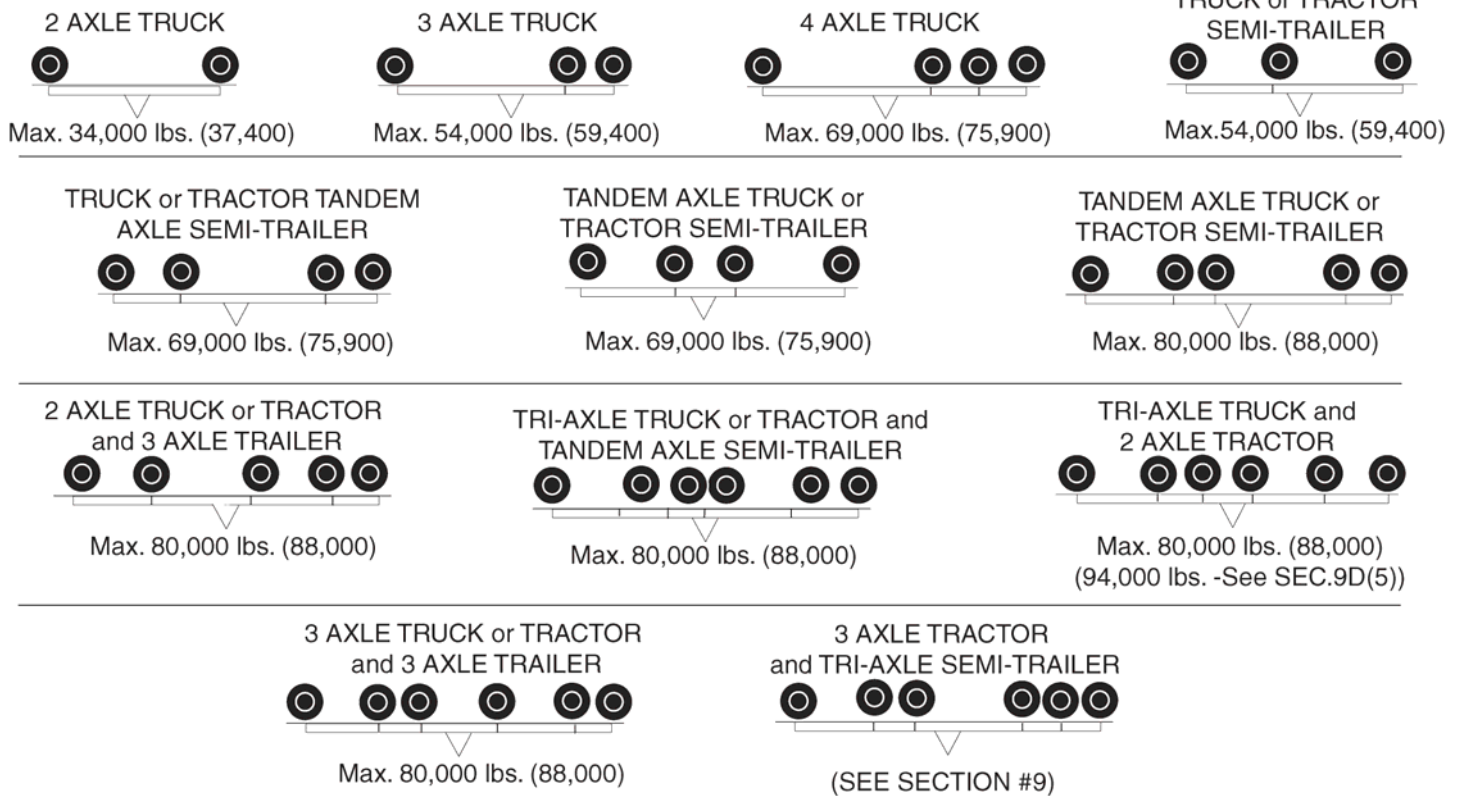
	PLAC- ALL ANY WEIGHT ANY RADIUS	INTRA <100 MI. 10,001 – 26k	INTRA <100 MI. >26k	INTRA 100 MI. 10,001 – 26k	INTRA >100 MI. >26k	INTER <100 MI. 10,001 – 26k	INTER <100 MI. >26k	INTER >100 MI. 10,001 – 26k	INTR >100 MI. >26k
CDL And Endorsements as needed	X		X		X		X		X
Application for Employment	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Pre-Hire Inquiries & Investigations	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Annual Review Of Driving Record	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Record of Violations	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Medical Examiner Certificate	X			X1	X1	X	X	X	X
Substance Abuse Testing	X		X		X		X		X
Driving Rules (Part 392)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Parts and Accessories (Part 393)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hours of Service Requirements	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Log Books	2			X	X	3	3	X	X
Vehicle Maintenance Records	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Out of Service Criteria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Driver post-trip Inspection	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Periodic Vehicle Inspection (Federal)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Brake Inspector Qualifications	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Haz Mat Driving & Parking Rules	X								
US DOT Number	5		X		X	X	X	X	X

(1) Exempt from hearing portion of physical exam. (2) No log books under 100 MILES EXCEPT IF REQUIRED BY NOTE 3. (3) Some conditions apply to log book exemptions. (4) State mandated periodic motor vehicle inspection also applies. (5) All interstate and Intrastate greater than 26K.

Anyone who knowingly or intentionally violates or causes the violation of a safety rule that results in death or serious injury commits a Class C crime.

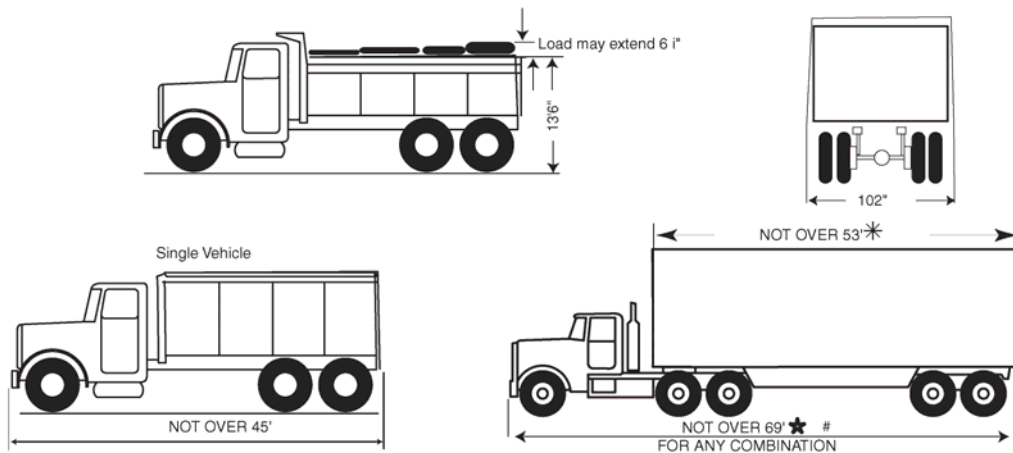
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHTS

(SPECIAL COMMODITY ALLOWANCES IN PARENTHESES)



Gross weight limits on the Interstate for all vehicles and commodities are controlled by Bridge Formula (Table 3.) However, in no case shall the maximum G.V.W. on the Interstate exceed the limits established in Table 1.

GROSS VEHICLE DIMENSIONS



* If >45 to 48 feet, then the distance between the center of the rear axle of the tractor and the center of the rear axle of the trailer must not exceed 38 feet

Not over 74 feet if including a semitrailer > 48 feet long.

★ Tree length logs may extend 8 1/2 ft. beyond the vehicle provided the extension is not more than 25% of the log length. (NON-INTERSTATE)

INTERSTATE EXTENDED VEHICLE LENGTHS

Applies also to certain designated Federal Aid Primary highways and permitted access to that system of highways.

